

Belle Fourche River Watershed Partnership  
March 14, 2024 @ 1pm  
Minutes

Call meeting to order: Tim Reich @ 1pm

Present: Karl Jensen-Lawrence CD, Connie McPherson-Elk Creek CD, Kristin May-BCR, Valerie Riter-NRCS, Bill Eastman-GFP, Joe Nichols-USFWS, Frank Walton-Butte Co Comm, Justin Krajewski-RESPEC, Maggie Syversen-NRCS, Tyler Swan-NRCS, Zach Grant-NRCS, Cliff Conry-Butte CD, Tim Reich-Butte CD, and Yvette Kirkman-Butte CD

Absent: Tristan Clemens-BFID

Introductions of new attendees

Approval of Agenda – Karl moved to approve the agenda, Connie second, all in favor, motion carried

Approval of Minutes – Connie moved to approve the minutes of the December meeting, Karl second, all in favor, motion carried

Treasurer's Report - Connie moved to approve the report, Karl second, all in favor, motion carried

BFRWP Update

Justin Krajewski reviewed 319 Segment 10 Budget, noting that future audits would increase due to the amount invested exceeding the \$750k threshold. 4 irrigation projects are complete, 6 in progress and 3 range/riparian projects are complete, 4 in progress.

The board reviewed the new cost docket, Karl moved to approve, Connie second, all in favor, motion carried

Segment 10 Amendment, waiting on final document, Karl moved to approve the Chair signing the final document when it becomes available, Connie second, all in favor, motion carried

Segment 10 Applications and Contracts, board agreed to have Justin go ahead and rank the projects and email final list for approval.

Elk Creek CD Rural School Day Event – Elk Creek asked for support of the conservation event, which reaches 105 rural students and this years theme will be pollinators and small farm operations. Karl moved to approve \$500 to the event, Tim second, all in favor, motion carried, Justin Krajewski noted that RESPEC would contribute \$250 to the event.

Leupold Foundation sent the annual request for support, Karl moved to approve \$500, Connie second, all in favor, motion carried

Justin Krajewski shared information on the Riparian Buffer Initiative

## NRCS

Belle Fourche – Maggie shared number of EQIP applications, ranking status approx. half complete, RCPP 5 pre-approvals, Andrea Westlake received the SD Early Career Range Conservationist of the Year in Reno, NV, new staff CET Chris Campton

Sturgis – Valerie reported 30 applications, 8 CSP's with 4 pre-approved, RCPP pivot has been paid management and cover crop remaining

BFID – not available

BCR – Kristin is working on 2 CSP's and Birds, Bees and Bison @ 777 Bison Ranch will be May 20<sup>th</sup>, BCR, Pheasants Forever and Xerces Society co-hosting

GFP – Bill noted attending the Soil Health Conference in RC, Clay Conry was great MC, working on a pipe/tank project near Fruitdale, mentioned the wire winder would be available for woven wire removal, hoping the 2<sup>nd</sup> Century program will improve, they had a funding short fall, has 2 projects submitted similar to CRP with select seed mixes

USFWS – Joe reported working on projects in Perkins Co and NE Butte Co and a fencing project N of Newell

Frank Walton updated on county happenings, top priority is roof, heating/cooling of building

Tanse Herrmann sent a message regarding the updates to the soil health trailer, he will be doing an inventory of the inside of the trailer for repairs, but exterior looks great and the lights and tires have been serviced

Partners Meeting tentatively in June

Next Meeting – July 18

BELLE FOURCHE RIVER WATERSHED PARTNERSHIP  
JULY 18, 2024 @ 1PM  
MINUTES

Call meeting to order: Tim Reich @ 1pm

Present: Karl Jensen-Lawrence CD, Connie McPherson-Elk Creek CD, Maggie Syversen-NRCS, Justin Boerboom-NRCS RUC, Joe Nichols-USFWS, Bill Eastman-GFP, Tristan Clements-BFID, Justin Krajewski-RESPEC, Valerie Riter-NRCS, Kristin May-BCR, Tim Reich-Butte CD and Yvette Kirkman-BCD/BFRWP

Approval of Agenda/Minutes – Karl moved to approve, Connie second, all in favor, motion carried

Treasurer's Report – Connie moved to approve the report, Tristan second, all in favor, motion carried

### Grants

-Justin Krajewski reviewed the budget summary with the board, 8 Irrigation projects complete, 3 Range/Riparian projects complete and 3 in progress.

-7 contracts need extensions due to unforeseen circumstances, all were reviewed, Karl moved to approve the extensions to 12/31/2024, Tristan second, all in favor, motion carried. Updated contracts will be sent for signature

-1 cancellation request, producer pursuing another avenue, Karl moved to approve, Tristan second, all in favor, motion carried. Letter will be sent to producer

-Second Amendment to Segment 10 is ready for signature, once it is signed by the state and returned, an additional \$500k will be added to irrigation and \$225k to range/riparian

-Butte CD agreement with BFRWP will need to be updated, Yvette reviewed, noting edits, Tristan moved to approve with edits, Connie second, all in favor, motion carried

-RESPEC Contract Modification – Karl moved to approve and implement when received, Tristan second, all in favor, motion carried

-Irrigation rankings were reviewed, Karl moved to approve the top 3 and continue thru the rankings as funding allows, Connie second, all in favor, motion carried, Tristan abstained

-Range/Riparian rankings were reviewed, Tristan moved to approve top 5 and continue thru the rankings as funding allows, Connie second, all in favor, motion carried, Karl abstained

### NRCS Update

Valerie Riter, Maggie Syversen and Justin Boerboom reported on contract numbers, funding and dollars implemented within the RUC for 2024, and estimated work for 2025 with an increased amount of funds available

## BFID Update

Tristan reported that the dam is at 80% capacity, 75 cfs have been ordered from Keyhole, they have pipe install slated for fall, office is fully staffed aside from needing a secretary. Keyhole obligation will be renegotiated in 2035

## Partner Reports

Joe Nichols-USFWS – noted the announcement for Kurt Forman's position will likely be in November, Chuck Pyle is currently acting in that capacity, Joe has mostly been working in Haakon, East Pennington, Perkins and Harding Co  
Bill Eastman-GFP – still partnering with Joe Nichols, not much activity in BFRWP, mostly Perkins and Northern Butte

Kristin May-BCR – working on CRP contracts, assisting NRCS, doing curlew surveys with ABC

Connie McPherson-Elk Creek CD – reported on the success of Rural School Day in April, rural schools will be getting a new principal and she is excited to continue the event, sponsored a student to Wildlife Conservation Camp, Justin Boerboom noted that supporting these projects/events is having an impact at the Pathways level

Karl Jensen-Lawrence CD – reported on attending the regional meeting in Manhattan, KS, all states in the region were represented except MT, noted the Conza Reserve managed by TNC, rotational grazing ½ buffalo and ½ cattle, discussed the woody plant invasion and burning method

New Business – meeting was turned over to Connie

BFRWP SRAM and SD DANR RBI Projects – Justin reviewed local project, Karl moved to approve the project, Tristan second, all in favor, motion carried, Tim abstained

Meeting turned back to Chairman Reich

Segment 11 application to SD DANR, potential for meeting in September, will circulate an email if face to face meeting is needed

RCPP Project Renewal – could potentially be by the end of the fiscal year

Adjourned – 2:10pm

Next Meeting: TBD